

Appendix

The following is a Listing of Claims in the copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/971,206.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A system for managing deployment of a plurality of distributed network infrastructure services, comprising:

a service management module operable to cause a network device to receive a first network infrastructure service module configuring the network device to perform a first dedicated network infrastructure function selected from a network security function, a quality of service function, and a network management function,

wherein the service management module additionally is operable to cause the network device to receive a second network infrastructure service module reconfiguring the network device to change from performing the first dedicated network infrastructure function to performing a second dedicated network infrastructure function different in function from the first dedicated network infrastructure function and selected from a network security function, a quality of service function, and a network management function.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second network infrastructure service modules comprises an application module operable to control the functionality of the network device, and a configuration file containing parameters controlling operating characteristics of the network device.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The system of claim 2, wherein each of the first and second network infrastructure service modules further comprises a kernel operable to provide basic services to the application module.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the service management module is operable to select the first and second dedicated network infrastructure functions to be performed by the network device based upon a network management policy.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): The system of claim 5, wherein each of the first and second dedicated network infrastructure functions is selected from the group consisting of: a proxy function, a load balancing function, a memory caching function, an encryption function, a compression function, a re-routing function, an application level network management function, and an active network management function.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second network infrastructure service modules is loadable by the network device at boot-up.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second network infrastructure service modules is dynamically loadable by the network device.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the service management module is configured to cause the first network infrastructure service module to be received by the network device in response to an initialization request received from the network device.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method of managing deployment of a plurality of distributed network infrastructure services, comprising:

causing a network device to receive a first network infrastructure service module
configuring the network device to perform a first dedicated network infrastructure function selected from a network security function, a quality of service function, and a network management function; and

causing the network device to receive a second network infrastructure service module
reconfiguring the network device to change from performing the first dedicated network infrastructure function to performing a second dedicated network infrastructure function

different in function from the first dedicated network infrastructure function and selected from a network security function, a quality of service function, and a network management function.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein each of the first and second network infrastructure service modules comprises an application module operable to control the functionality of the network device, and a configuration file containing parameters controlling operating characteristics of the network device.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 12, wherein each of the first and second network infrastructure service modules further comprises a kernel operable to provide basic services to the application module.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, further comprising selecting the first and second dedicated network infrastructure functions to be performed by the network device based upon a network management policy.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein each of the first and second dedicated network infrastructure functions is selected from the group consisting of: a proxy function, a load balancing function, a memory caching function, an encryption function, a compression function, a re-routing function, an application level network management function, and an active network management function.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein each of the first and second network infrastructure service modules is loadable by the network device at boot-up.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein each of the first and second network infrastructure service modules is dynamically loadable by the network device.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, wherein the first network infrastructure service module is caused to be received by the network device in response to an initialization request received from the network device.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A computer program for managing deployment of a plurality of distributed network infrastructure services, the computer program residing on a computer-readable medium and comprising computer-readable instructions for causing a computer to perform operations comprising:

causing a network device to receive a first network infrastructure service module configuring the network device to perform a first dedicated network infrastructure function selected from a network security function, a quality of service function, and a network management function; and

causing the network device to receive a second network infrastructure service module reconfiguring the network device to change from performing the first dedicated network infrastructure function to performing a second dedicated network infrastructure function different in function from the first dedicated network infrastructure function and selected from a network security function, a quality of service function, and a network management function.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The computer program of claim 20, further comprising computer-readable instructions for causing a computer to perform operations comprising selecting each of the first and second dedicated network infrastructure functions from the group consisting of: a proxy function, a load balancing function, a memory caching function, an encryption function, a compression function, a re-routing function, an application level network management function, and an active network management function.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the first network infrastructure service module configures the network device to perform only the first network infrastructure function while the first network infrastructure service module is loaded in the network device, and the second network infrastructure service module configures the network

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device to perform only the second network infrastructure function while the second network infrastructure service module is loaded in the network device.